



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. KBB 2004 - 24

INTERSTATE 49 NORTH EXTENSION FEASIBILITY AND FUNDING TASK FORCE

- WHEREAS,** due to Interstate 49 not extending north beyond the city of Shreveport, businesses and industries of the state of Louisiana are not directly linked by an interstate highway to our neighboring state of Arkansas and consumer markets in the mid-west;
- WHEREAS,** the state of Louisiana's goals and objectives for economic development are inextricably intertwined with those for improving the infrastructure of the state's highways and roadways; and
- WHEREAS,** the interests of the citizens of the state of Louisiana would be best served by the continuation of the Interstate 49 North Extension Feasibility and Funding Task Force in order to complete its analysis of securing funding sources for extending Interstate 49 north to the Louisiana-Arkansas border, analyzing the benefits of such an extension project, and evaluating the impact that such an extension would have on the citizens of the state of Louisiana, especially those who live and/or work in the northwest region of the state of Louisiana;

NOW THEREFORE I, KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO, Governor of the state of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

- SECTION 1:** The Interstate 49 North Extension Feasibility and Funding Task Force (hereafter "Task Force") is reestablished within the executive department, Office of the Governor.
- SECTION 2:** The duties and functions of the Task Force shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
- A. Identify funding sources and/or innovative financing alternatives to fully fund the proposed project to extend Interstate 49 north from the city of Shreveport to the Louisiana-Arkansas border (hereafter "I-49 Extension Project"), from the beginning of the project through its completion; and
 - B. Documenting and evaluating the level of support for the I-49 Extension Project from a) the citizens of the state of Louisiana living in the various geographical regions of the state, b) the chambers of commerce of the communities located in the northwest region of the state of Louisiana, and c) the members of the Louisiana Legislature and Louisiana's United States Congressional Delegation.
- SECTION 3:**
- A. By March 1, 2005, the Task Force shall submit a comprehensive report on the issues set forth in Section 2 of this Order to the governor, the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works.
 - B. The Task Force shall also submit documentation to the governor by March 1, 2005, suitable for submission to the members of the state of Louisiana's United States Congressional Delegation, supporting the reasons for extending Interstate 49 north to the Louisiana-Arkansas border.

- SECTION 4:

The Task Force shall be composed of a maximum of twenty-three (23) members who, unless specified, shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor, and selected as follows:
- A.

The governor, or the governor’s designee;
- B.

The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, or the secretary’s designee;
- C.

The commissioner of administration, or the commissioner’s designee;
- D.

The chair of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, or the chair’s designee;
- E.

The chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, or the chair’s designee;
- F.

The chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, or the chair’s designee;
- G.

The chair of the House Committee on Commerce, or the chair’s designee;
- H.

The Federal Highway Administrator for the state of Louisiana, or the Federal Highway Administrator’s designee;
- I.

A member of the Louisiana State Senate, elected from the northwest region of the state of Louisiana, designated by the president of the Senate;
- J.

A member of the House of Representatives, elected from the northwest region of the state of Louisiana, designated by the speaker of the House of Representative;
- K.

Citizens of the state of Louisiana who reside in a community in the northwest region of the state of Louisiana; and
- L.

Representatives of businesses and/or industries that are located in the northwest region of the state of Louisiana.
- SECTION 5:

The chair of the Task Force shall be appointed by the governor from the membership of the Task Force. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by the members of the Task Force from its membership.
- SECTION 6:

The Task Force shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals and at the call of the chair.
- SECTION 7:

A.

Task Force members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem from the Office of the Governor or the Department of Transportation and Development for serving on the Task Force.

B.

Task Force members who are an employee or an elected public official of the state of Louisiana or a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana may seek reimbursement of travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from their employing department, agency and/or office or elected office.

C.

Task Force members who are also a member of the Louisiana Legislature may seek a per diem from the Louisiana State Senate or

House of Representatives, as appropriate, for their attendance at Task Force meetings and/or services on the Task Force.

- SECTION 8:

Support staff, facilities, and resources for the Task Force shall be provided by the Department of Transportation and Development.
- SECTION 9:

All departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers of the state of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Task Force in implementing the provisions of this Order.
- SECTION 10:

This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the governor, or terminated by operation of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 20th day of August, 2004.

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR**

SECRETARY OF STATE